

A photograph of a marching band or honor guard. Several soldiers in dark blue dress uniforms with peaked caps are marching in a line. They are carrying flags, including the American flag and other state or organizational flags. The background shows green foliage.

**California Veterans Board**

**Annual Report**  
**July 2003 - June 2004**

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# Executive Summary

## WHAT THIS REPORT COVERS

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Typically, the California Veterans Board's Annual Report covers the calendar year. This annual report of 2004 will cover the past fiscal year (July 2003 - June 2004). The Annual Report is organized to provide information about both the specific activities of the Board and the context within which those activities were undertaken.

Section	Topics Covered
Introduction	Provides a brief background of how the Board and its responsibilities have been developed since early in this century. In a short space, it offers an explanation of how the Board came to be.
Mission Statement	A usable statement of the Board's primary purpose.
Board Member Information	Provides a biographical sketch of those individuals who served as Board members during FY 2003- 2004.
Board Policy and Administration; Structure and Process	These sections lay out the relationship between the Board and the Department of Veterans Affairs for which it sets policy, and the varying mechanisms in place to energize that relationship.
Departmental Programs	This section details four specific areas in which the majority of Board activity, relative to the Department of Veterans Affairs, took place.
The Board and the Legislative Process	Explains how the Board seeks to participate in the statutory formation of veterans' public policy, also provided is a chart recording the Boards support and oppositions to proposed bills.
The Board and the Appeal Process	This section indicates action to review Department of Veterans Affairs management decisions that individual veterans regard as adverse to both their interests and their rights.

## RECOGNITION

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Work on behalf of veterans is a collaborative effort. The Board recognizes and appreciates the work done by the **California Legislature** on behalf of those citizens of California who have served our nation in uniform. The Board recognizes and greatly appreciates the support provided by the **California Department of Veterans Affairs** and the **Office of the Inspector General**. The Board recognizes the very strong support received by **Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger** and his administration on veteran's issues. The board also recognizes **Governor Gray Davis** and his administration in which he signed many pieces of legislation benefiting California's veterans during his term as Governor. The California Veterans Board looks forward to the new administration of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger by collectively supporting veteran issues in the years to come.

# Introduction

## HISTORY OF THE BOARD

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The people of the State of California have a long and distinguished history of support for the men and women who have served the United States in military uniform. This support has, over time, manifested itself by the development of a significant California public policy segment devoted to veterans and issues of importance to them. The duties and responsibilities of the California Veterans Board, which are enumerated in the Military and Veterans Code, evolve as part of that public policy development.

At the transition from the 19th to the 20th century, the State of California became the responsible manager of the Veterans Home of California at Yountville, a facility providing retirement care for aged and disabled military veterans, established in 1884. Following the armistice that ended World War I, California, like most other states, wanted to provide some sort of official appreciation for their service to those veterans returning from the war.

In 1921, the Legislature established the Veterans Welfare Board to manage the programs enacted to give constructive form to that appreciation. By 1929 attention to veteran-related issues has grown sufficiently resulting in the establishment of a new department of state government to be known as the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Together with the Veterans Welfare Board and a number of other boards, this Department managed veterans programs and policy issues until the end of World War II.

Following World War II in 1946, a governmental reorganization saw the establishment of the Department of Veterans Affairs and California Veterans Board as replacements for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Veterans Welfare Board, and the lesser known boards. Statutory authorization for the California Veterans Board is found in Section 64 of the California Military and Veterans Code. Sections 65 and 66 of the Code establish the size of the Board and the requirements for service upon it.

## BOARD MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS

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The California Veterans Board was established within the California Department of Veterans Affairs under the Statutes of 1946, and is governed by the California Military and Veterans Code. It is composed of seven members, appointed to non-concurrent four-year terms by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate. The Governor will fill any vacancies for the un-expired portion of the terms in which they occur.

### Volunteers:

- All of the members must be veterans.
- One member shall be retired from the active or reserve forces of the United States military.
- One member shall have substantial training or professional expertise in mortgage lending and real estate.
- One member shall have substantial training or professional expertise in geriatrics, gerontology, or long-term care (in accordance with Senate Bill 1470 {Statutes of 1996, Chapter 1145} and Assembly Bill 2933 Statutes of 2000, Chapter 534).
- One member shall be a resident of the California Veterans Homes (two year term limit)(Senate Bill 1717).

## **Introduction**

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- One member shall have an accounting or auditing background (Senate Bill 1858, Chapter 977 approved by Governor Davis September 26, 2002).

### **BOARD POSITIONS**

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The Board elects a Chairman who then selects a Vice Chairman. The Chairman conducts monthly meetings and any Special Sessions that may be convened.

### **BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES**

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The Board takes into consideration budgetary constraints, veteran representation in the community, and appropriate meeting sites when convening meetings. Board meetings are open to all veterans, veterans' service organizations, members of the legislature and the general public. For budget savings, the board changed from two-days to one-day meetings. No meetings scheduled in January and July.

The Board also participates in the legislative process by testifying in person or in writing to the Legislature on behalf of veterans on matters pertaining to the welfare of the veteran community of California. Individual Board members may be assigned liaison duties with major veterans organizations including but not restricted to; The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Jewish War Veterans, Fleet Reserve Association, American GI Forum and AMVETS. The Board may attend other veteran functions by invitation. Board members serve on the Board's Select Committees at the pleasure of the Chairman. Section 86(a) of the California Military and Veterans Code provides that any veteran who applies for benefits may appeal any decision of the Department to the Board. The Board is the final level of administrative appeal.

The Board monitors veterans and dependents policy issues through Select Committees, whose chairmen maintain contact with the Department staff and others. The Board determines the policy for all operations of the Department, including significant changes affecting all on-going programs, proposed programs, and long-range planning, such as the Farm and Home Loan program, Veterans claims and rights, the California Veterans homes, and the Department's Strategic Plan.



# **CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**To determine policies for the California Department of Veterans Affairs; to hear and render decisions on veterans' appeals; to set the annual rate of interest on Cal-Vet farm and home loans; to ensure that the more than 2.6 million veterans residing in California and their dependents are treated fairly and are provided, upon request, all information available relating to the benefits authorized by state law, including quality veterans homes; to interface with California's veteran organizations; and to conduct all board business by serving veterans today.**

**“VOICE OF CALIFORNIA VETERANS”**

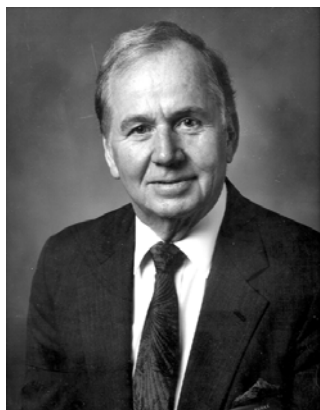


## **Board Member Information**



### **GEORGE G. SINOPOLI, Chairman**

Governor Davis reappointed Mr. Sinopoli to the Board in March 2002. He is from Fresno and previously served as Board member in 1962 for Governor Pat Brown, continued to serve for Governor Ronald Regan and served as Chairman of the California Veterans Board under Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. Additionally, he served as State Commander and Executive Director of the American Legion. During World War II, Mr. Sinopoli served as an Army Air Corps Pilot. His current term runs until January 15, 2006.



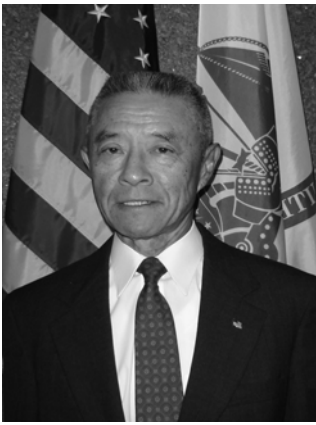
### **LEO P. BURKE, Vice Chairman (July 2003– )**

Mr. Burke of Stockton was reappointed to the Board in June 2002. He began serving on the Board in 1985 and since then has served as Chairman five times. In addition to his Board responsibilities, he serves as President of the Board of Directors of the Disabled American Veterans Charities of San Joaquin County, and Chairman of the Board of Delta College. Prior to retirement, he served for many years as the Administrator of the Stockton Convention Center. Mr. Burke served in the U.S. Marine Corps, is a veteran of World War II and is past National Vice Commander for the American Legion. He also served as the Chairman for Governor Davis on the Commission for Veterans Homes. Governor Davis reappointed him to the Board in June 2003 and his current term runs until January 15, 2007.



### **JUDY GAZE**

Ms. Judy Gaze, of San Diego, is a retired Captain from the US Navy, having served from 1973–2000. She served as Director for the Quality of Life Services, Navy Region southwest. Captain Gaze also served from 1993-1995 as Director of Military Family Housing in San Diego. She is currently a principal with SRA International, an information technology company. Captain Gaze earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Northern Iowa and a Master of Business Administration degree from National University. Her term expires January 15, 2005.



## **VERNON CHONG**

Dr. Vernon Chong from Lincoln served 31 years in the United States Air Force, is a retired Major General. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Stanford University and a Doctor of Medicine degree from the Stanford University School of Medicine. He was Network Director for the VA Heart of Texas Health Care Network (VISN 17) in Dallas from October 1995 to October 2000. Currently he is the Chairman of the Board of Managers of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States. His term expires January 15, 2008.



## **EDWARD FELDMAN**

Dr. Feldman of Westlake Village is a highly decorated veteran, having served as a Naval Officer with the Marine Infantry during the Vietnam War. He currently serves as a physician in Thousand Oaks. Dr. Feldman was a founding member of the Hillcrest Home in Thousand Oaks, which serves as a retirement and semi-ambulatory care facility. He earned a bachelor of science degree from Columbia University and a doctorate of osteopathic medicine degree from the University of Health Sciences, Kansas City. He served as Vice Chair through June 2003. He resigned April 27, 2004.



## **JERRY B. BASCONCILLO**

Mr. Basconcillo, of Delano in Kern County, is a decorated veteran of the U.S. Army. He earned the Vietnam Service Medal, Bronze Star, Vietnam Commendation Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. He served as Post Commander of the American Legion, Post 640, and also served on the 15<sup>th</sup> District Executive Committee. His term expired January 15, 2004.



## **LARRY LATTMAN**

Mr. Lattman is a resident of the California Veterans Home in Yountville. He is also the Chairman of the Allied Council at the Veterans Home in Yountville from 1998-2000. Mr. Lattman was with the Public Affairs/Outreach Office for the Veteran Home. He is member of the American Legion, VFW, Jewish War Veterans, Marine Corps League and AMVETS. His term expired January 15, 2004.



## HOMETOWNS OF CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD MEMBERS



# Policy and Administration

## HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

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*The people of California have created a veterans-related public policy area of remarkable dimension. That dimension was created through a vote of the people at the ballot box, a wide range of action taken by the Legislature, and a history of strong support from California's governors. In the vast statutory maze that provides the structure of California government, more than 2,300 citations are veteran specific. Many of those statutes deal with programs administered and/or managed by the California Department of Veterans Affairs. Section 72 of the California Military and Veterans Code provides that the California Veterans Board "... shall determine the policies for all operations of the Department."*

Policymaking is a collaborative effort. It requires the collection of information from many sources and from those with divergent points of view. Thoughtful review of the information is required before it can be appropriately distilled to a form usable in constructive discussion. Once these steps have been taken, consensus among the Board members must be reached on which items merit the status of policy items and which are merely informational or instructive.

The current Board membership believes that this collaborative process has been the norm rather than the exception for the past half-century. It recognizes, however, that the addition of clarifying language to Section 84 of the Code has improved the process by which policy for the Department of Veterans Affairs is made. These improvements were added through Senate Bill 1470, Chapter 1145, Statutes of 1996.

The Department of Veterans Affairs, under provisions of Section 70 of the Military and Veterans Code, is charged with administration and management of the specified programs within its purview, and under Section 74 of the Code, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is the responsible executive in the management and operation of those programs. Programs are generally more viable than the guiding principles or plans of action that are the justification for them. It is equally true that the 1,200 or so full-time employees of the Department can be seen performing their duties more easily than seven private citizens working part time and essentially without salary. Expenses are reimbursed and a \$100 per diem is authorized under Section 11564.5 of the Government Code. To conclude from these realities that the California Veterans Board is less a policy making body than is intended by the statute would be a mistake. Likewise, it would be an error to believe that the 12 public meetings scheduled by the Board in any given year constitute its entire workload.

## HOW DOES THE BOARD ATTEND TO POLICY?

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During this reporting year, members participated in many other meetings that were related to their work on the California Veterans Board. They also participated in 9 separate appeals filed by veterans disputing judgments made by the Department of Veterans Affairs in the discharge of its program administration responsibilities. Additionally, each Board member participated in a number of functions that they did not believe met the standard of official business. It should be noted that the members of the Board are widely recognized throughout California as key players in the veteran's public policy arena (detail chart of appeals attached within).

## Structure and Process

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The Board's policy-making responsibility is an integral part of how the Department of Veterans Affairs manages the services it provides to California's veterans. The establishment of a concise and orderly process by the Board to exercise that responsibility is also fundamental.

To achieve this orderly process, the Board has created two mechanisms. The first is a select committee structure through which topic-specific review and individual expertise or interest of a Board member can be effectively utilized to gather and prioritize information so that action items can be identified. Once identified, the select committee members bring items to the public meeting of the full Board for additional review and whatever response the full membership sees as appropriate. The second element in the Board's structure is the Policy Book. As the name indicates, this is the official statement of the "...guiding principles..." promulgated by the Board in discharge of its duties as described in Section 72 of the Military and Veterans Code.

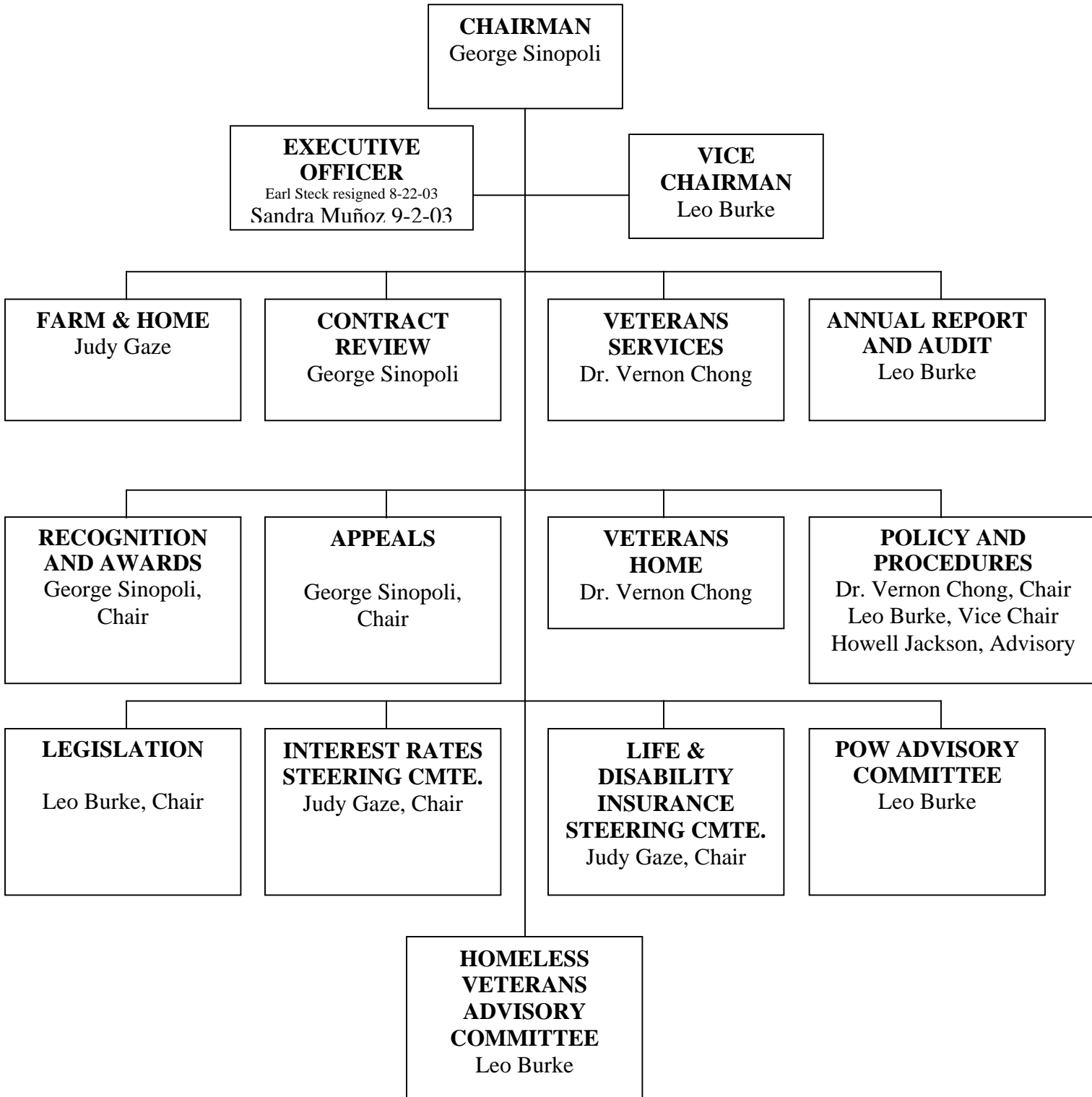
The Select Committees are; Annual Report and Audit, Appeals, Contract Review, Farm and Home, Legislation, Policy and Procedures, Recognition and Awards, Veterans Homes, and Veterans Services. Assignments to these nine Select Committees encompass the majority of work done by individual members in the discharge of their Board responsibilities. The organization chart of the Select Committees is enclosed. Details of each committee are included in the minutes of the Board meetings found on the Boards web site: [www.cdva.ca.gov/board](http://www.cdva.ca.gov/board). The key accomplishments of those committees include:

1. The California Veterans Board Annual Report
2. Several Department Contract reviews and Audits
3. Contract reviews for newer lower interest rates for CDVA Farm and Home Loans
4. Actively involved in review of Request for Proposals for Life and Disability Programs
5. Reviewed and stated positions on over 30 Legislative Bills (chart enclosed)
6. Recognition to numerous veteran supporters and veterans organizations (chart enclosed)
7. Reports on and visits to each of the three California Veterans Homes
8. Monthly updates on Veterans Services Programs
9. Revising and updating the California Veterans Board Policy Book

The 2001 Legislative session provided reinforcing language with respect to the role and support of the Board. Senate Bill 164 Sponsored by Senator Johannessen, provided for a full time Executive Officer to tend the day-to-day business of the Board. The bill also required the Board to provide an annual report to the Legislature each year.

## Structure and Process

### Organization Chart and Select Committee Assignments



# Departmental Programs

## **FARM AND HOME LOAN PROGRAM**

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Throughout fiscal year 2003-04, the Board continued to encourage the management of the Cal-Vet Farm and Home Loan Program to make significant improvements to the loan product. The goal of the Board and CDVA is to make Cal-Vet the loan of choice for California veterans. Among the improvements supported by the Board by legislation and policy were increases in the maximum loan amount, and decreases in interest rates. Since inception, the Program has assisted over 415,000 veterans to purchase farms and homes throughout the State as a benefit to recognize their personal sacrifice and service to state and country.

- As of January 1, 2003 was passed to allow Cal-Vet maximum loan amounts to follow the FannieMae limits, which are reviewed annually.
- As of January 1, 2004, support by the board, the maximum Cal-Vet Loan amount was increased to \$333,700 home loan limits. Maximum farm limits were increased to 150% of the current Cal-Vet Home Loan.
- As of January 1, 2004, Cal-Vet contract holders may acquire home improvement loans with interest rates based on the current new home loan rates, rather than rates tied to their basic home loan. A home improvement loan is \$50,000 at our current below-market interest rates.
- On As of February 2004, CDVA entered into a new carrier with Standard Insurance Company to provide life and disability coverage for Cal-Vet contract holders. The policy provides enhanced benefits at no additional cost to contract holders with optional increases in benefits at minimal increased cost.
- On February 28, 2003, CDVA Premium rates on Disaster Indemnity coverage to indemnify Cal-Vet were reduced contract holders against losses due to floods and earthquakes, and, for the first time, against losses due to terrorism, with no increase in cost to contract holders, coverage were reduced
- On May 8, 2003, CDVA implemented an on-line loan application and tracking system to make filing loan applications easy and convenient. Veterans can be "on-line rather than in line." They are able to determine eligibility, pre-qualify, complete a loan application, and track processing status on-line. Mortgage Brokers and Real Estate Agents may access the system to start the application for their clients, check loan status and receive e-mail status updates. Access to the application is through the CDVA Website.
- Effective January 1, 2004, maximum loan limits for mobile homes in parks was increased from \$70,000 to \$125,000, thereby allowing veterans a greater opportunity to purchase affordable housing.
- Cal-Vet, the Farm and Home Purchases Division in June 2004 announced toll free telephone lines for each Cal-Vet Field Office.
- At the end of fiscal year Cal-Vet Loan processing times average 30 days or less. Based upon these improvements, CDVA expects application intake to increase throughout the next year.

## **VETERANS SERVICES**

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The Veterans Services Division continues to move forward and bring forth to the Board a wide range of high profile veteran issues this reporting period. Accordingly, the division assumed the Cemeteries and Memorials Program. The program is coordinating the establishment of new state owned and operated veteran cemeteries. The first cemetery is the Northern California State Veteran Cemetery (NCSVC), located in Shasta County. The cemetery is scheduled to be operational by July 2004. Veterans in the northern California region will soon be provided a new state benefit in the form of

dignified military burials. CDVA manages the construction and maintenance of several veterans memorials located in Capitol Park.

Veterans Services continues the Outreach and Recruitment for the Disabled Veteran Enterprise Program. Small businesses, including veterans, disabled veterans, and disabled veteran business enterprises are instrumental to the good health of the state's economy and a principal source of new jobs in California. With the specific opportunity of at least a 3% goal of all state contracts for certified DVBE's, the creation of the program fosters further business competition and adds to a vibrant California economy

Additionally the Veterans Dependents Educational Assistance for dependent child, spouse or unmarried surviving spouses of a service connected disabled or deceased veteran may be entitled to tuition and fee waiver benefits at any campus of the California State University system, University of California or a California Community College.

## **VETERANS HOMES**

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Providing the state's aged or disabled veterans with rehabilitative, residential, and medical care and services in a home-like environment at the California Veterans Homes. Management changes included recent appointments of experienced long-term care Administrators at each of the Homes have been accomplished. The added depth of long term care experience and the re-organization has assured successful completion of Department of Health Service and US Department of Veterans Affairs surveys during this past year.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of a seasoned health care professional as Deputy Secretary for Veterans Homes. This appointment will provide the Veterans Homes Division with long term care expertise and a quality management program to monitor regulatory compliance and provision of quality of care and service to our California veterans.

## **CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION DIVISION**

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CDVA created the Capital Development and Construction Division in January 2003 to administer the Department's Capital Outlay and Construction program. This enlarged program was funded by the passage and signing into law by Governor Davis of AB 2559 (Wesson), AB2953 (Wiggins). SB 1234 (Johannessen) and SB 1773 (Chesbro), In 2000 Proposition 16 which made \$50 million in General Obligation funds available for building new veterans homes in California and for remodeling existing homes.

The Veterans Homes of California at Lancaster and Ventura will focus on Adult Day Health Care and Residential Care and Residential Care for the Elderly. When necessary, member residents will be able to transfer to the West Los Angeles veterans' home to receive skilled nursing care. The veterans' homes in Fresno and Redding will offer Residential Care for the Elderly and Skilled Nursing Care.

In February 2003, authorization was received to begin development and construction of the Greater Los Angeles and Ventura Counties Veterans Home (GLAVC). Two architecture firms have been hired. The Veterans Home on the campus of the USDVA Greater Los Angeles Medical Center, in Lancaster, and in Ventura is now on track for completion in 2007. These five new veterans homes, serving as many as 1,200 veterans, will be constructed through a 65 percent federal and 35 percent state partnership. The Department is currently working on getting the land transfer for future Veterans

Homes in Redding and Fresno. Governor Schwarzenegger dedicated the Lancaster Veterans Home to Senator William J. Pete Knight on June 8, 2004.

On October 2003 the renovation of the Holderman Hospital Renovation was completed at Yountville. The reconstruction of Roosevelt Hall for Alzheimer and dementia patients will start sometime in July 2004. An agreement was reached with the Town of Yountville over the purchase of water from the Yountville Veterans Home at cost and the veterans home will receive sewage treatment from the town at cost. The Lincoln Theater, also located at the veterans' home, is being renovated, the funds were donated by Friends of the Lincoln Theater and is scheduled to be completed September 2004.

The department is working diligently in developing the operational partnerships contemplated in first Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with GLAVC. We are going to be building 5 more Veterans' homes over the next 5 or 6 years and these projects are moving forward.

Finally, the design of the California's first Veterans Cemetery in Redding has been completed and the construction contract is expected will be awarded in 2004.

## **The Board and the Legislative Process**

Although its principle responsibility is as the policy making body for the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Board has, over the years, developed into an active informational conduit for the veterans community. It carries forward to that community the policy aims of the gubernatorial administration of which it is largely a part, as well as those it affixes for the Department of Veterans Affairs. It also carries back to them the attitudes, concerns, and positions of California veterans encountered in the travels of the Board and its individual members. That naturally existing dialogue gives rise to the Board's interest in the legislative process as it relates to veterans issues.

The Select Committee on Legislation monitors veterans-related legislation as well as more broadly defined legislation that might be of interest to California's veterans. From time to time, and after much discussion among themselves, the Board may take a public position on certain legislative measures.

During the past fiscal year, the Board acted on 29 Bills sponsored by various Senators and Assemblymen. In the chart below we have identified the sponsor for each Bill and the Board's position to these Bills.

<b>BILL</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>CVB POSITION</b>
AB 1919	Samuelian	Veterans Board	Supported
AB 1880	Maze	Postsecondary education tuition and fees	Supported
AB 207	Maze	Vandalism: veterans memorial, monument or cemetery	Supported
AB 1928	Parra	Tax payer contributions	Supported

### **The Board and the Legislative Process**

AB 1148	Wyland	This bill no longer affects veterans	
AB 1736	VA Committee	Allow bond funds to construct veterans' homes	Supported
AB 3000	Mountjoy	Veterans Homes POW receive priority status	Supported
AB 279	Cohn	POW license plates	Supported
AB 214	S. Horton	Veterans Quality of Life	Supported
AB 323	Parra	Nonprofit veteran service agencies	Supported
AB 1073	Dutton/Parra	Military Death Gratuity	Supported
AB 1592	VA Committee	Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program	Supported
AB 2266	VA Committee	Cal-Vet Farm and Home Loan Program	Supported
AB 2268	Samuelian	Veterans Claims	Supported
AB 1077	Wesson	Veterans Homes	Supported
AB 1179	Parra	Military discharge papers	Supported
AB 1420	Laird	Reduce fee Fish and Game license	Supported
SB 385	Morrow	Farm and Home Purchases	Supported
AB 2540	Parra	American flags to Iraqi war veterans	Supported
AB 2697	Kehoe	Cost of living adjustments Veterans Homes	Supported
SB 838	Knight	Veterans Homes	No
SB 1193	Soto	Surviving spouses and children relief act.	Supported
SB 1322	Denham	Veteran's student financial aid.	Supported
SB 1517	Ashburn	Veterans retroactive high school diplomas	Supported
SB 1651	Morrow	Veterans Memorial	Supported
SB 1725	Knight	Disabled veterans, vehicles	Supported
SB 214	S. Horton	Veterans Quality of Life Fund	Supported
SB 1763	Knight	Military and Veterans, health care study	Failed in Assembly
HR 1742	US Congress	Revise the Veterans Loans program to support veterans after 1977	Supported



## **The Board and the Appeal Process**

Section 86 of the Military and Veterans Code provides that the Board serves as an appellate body for any veteran who believes that a decision by the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to that veteran has affected them adversely. When an appeal is received, it is assigned to one of the seven at-large members for review. The assigned member is responsible for reviewing all file material, conducting an initial hearing when one is requested, and making a presentation to the full Board. The most frequent topics for appeal during this reporting period were veterans Home admission issues, College Fee Waiver issues, and various Farm and Home Loan Program issues. The Board also conducts formal hearings at which time the entire Board sits as a jury and both sides have legal counsel.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Type Of Hearing(s)</b>	<b>Board Decision</b>
College Education Fee Waiver	➤ 1= Review of records	1 Denied, outside the Boards authority
Farm and Home Loan	➤ 1 = Formal ➤ 5 = Informal ➤ 4 = Review of records	9 Denied
Denial of Admission: Chula Vista	➤ 1 = Informal	1 Denied

*Locations for FORMAL Hearing are to be scheduled close to the Appellants home.*

## **Chart of Appeals—Fiscal Year June 2003 – July 2004**

The Law Office was provided copies of all current appeals, in addition copies provided in the Board books. Locations for FORMAL Hearings are to be scheduled close to the Appellants home.

<b>Appellant</b>	<b>Rec'd</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Type of Hearing</b>	<b>Date Assigned</b>	<b>Assigned To Board Member</b>	<b>Date Voted</b>	<b>Decision</b>
Clarence Dillard	6/5/03	Denial of Cal Vet Loan	Formal Hearing	Waiver Signed	Judy Gaze	10/17/03	Dismissed No Show
Michael Escandon	7/10/03	Denial Cal Vet Loan	Informal Hearing	7/18/03	Judy Gaze	9/19/03	Uphold CDVA
Steven Mazman	7/15/03	Denial Cal Vet Home repairs	Review of Records	7/18/03	Jerry Basconcillo	9/19/03	Uphold CDVA
Will Tracy	8/05/03	Denial Cal Vet Loan Pay Off on loan	Review of Records	8/05/03	Judy Gaze	9/19/03	Uphold CDVA
Ronnie Nelson	4/25/03	Denial Cal Vet Claim	Review of Records	5/9/03	Judy Gaze	7/18/03	Deny
Christopher Nicholas	6/03/03	Denial Tuition Fee Waiver	Review of Records	6/03/03	Jerry Basconcillo	7/18/03	Outside Board Authority
Walter Unruh	10/20/03	Denial to move from RCFE to SNF	Informal Hearing	10/30/03	Ed Feldman		Deceased
Robert Burrows	10/20/03	Denial Cal Vet Loan	Informal Hearing	10/30/03	Judy Gaze	3/05/04	Uphold CDVA
Richard Calton	1/20/04	Denial Cal Vet Loan	Informal Hearing	1/23/04	Judy Gaze	3/05/04	Uphold CDVA
John Warren	1/20/04	Cancel Disability Insurance	Informal Hearing	3/19/04	Judy Gaze	4/23/04	Uphold CDVA
Anthony Mosqueda	2/23/04	Cancel Contract	Review of Record	2/23/04	Judy Gaze	4/23/04	Uphold CDVA
Lawrence Gorfine	4/30/04	Balance of Loan	Informal Hearing	5/03/04	Judy Gaze	To be determined	

## **The Board and The Veteran Community**

As specified in Sections 65 and 66 of the Military and Veterans Code, those individuals appointed by the Governor to serve on the California Veterans Board are veterans themselves. These men and women are people who represent the geographic and social diversity of California and they are generally individuals who have demonstrated history of service to the veteran community prior to their appointment to the Board. It is in fact the members' stature in the veteran community that gives the Board both its credibility and its access to that community. As gubernatorial appointees, Board members have the responsibilities of communicating the Governor's veteran-related public policy positions to the veterans who live in California and returning to the Governor those concerns and viewpoints of the veteran constituency that have been communicated to the Board.

To adequately meet the responsibility described above, the Board feels very strongly to meet where veterans live and that it should meet in locations throughout the entire state and keep in mind this fact not only to meet primarily in Sacramento. Furthermore, Board members believe that meeting in rural communities and in those smaller urban communities that abound in California is every bit as important as meeting in large cities like Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco. The Board has worked to implement a pattern for meeting locations that provides for this kind of geographic diversity.

Always critical to an accurate understanding of the veteran community in California is a well-developed working relationship with the veterans' service organizations. These groups, including The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), American Veterans (AMVETS), Jewish War Veterans (JWV), Fleet Reserve Association, Reserve Officers Association (ROA), Vietnam Veterans the American G.I. Forum, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), among others, represent more than a half million California veterans. They are platforms for community service in virtually every city and town in our state. The relationship between the Board and the service organizations has been excellent during this reporting period. The Board members wish to express their deep gratitude to the organizations for the cooperation extended to it on a wide range of topics during this reporting year. Board members continue to seek out similar levels of interaction with California veterans who may not be affiliated with any organized veterans group.

CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD MEETINGS

Friday July 18, 2003; 8:30 AM  
California Department of Veterans Affairs Headquarters, Sacramento  
1227 O Street, Sacramento, CA  
George G. Sinopoli, Chairman  
Information 916/653-2041  
Web Site: [www.cdva.ca.gov/board](http://www.cdva.ca.gov/board)

AGENDA

8:30 AM GENERAL SESSION- MEDAL OF HONOR HALL  
(The Board's Select Committee's will report during the General Session.)

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING / WELCOMING REMARKS

- Call to Order / Roll Call
- Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance
- Introductions
  - California Veterans Board (CVB)
  - California Department of Veterans Affairs Staff (CDVA)
  - Audience
  - Approve May 2003 Minutes. (DRAFT)

SECRETARY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS / REMARKS

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON ACTIVITIES- Jun/July, 2003

REPORTS (Status of CDVA Division / CVB Select Committees / Special)

1. CDVA DIVISION -- VETERANS HOMES CALIFORNIA:
  - Yountville Veterans Home –
  - Barstow Veterans Home –
  - Chula Vista Veterans Home
  - California Veterans Homes – Deborah Kania, Deputy Secretary
2. SELECT COMMITTEE -- Veterans Homes, Larry Lattman
3. CDVA DIVISION FARM AND HOME PURCHASES – Jerry Jones, Chief
4. SELECT COMMITTEE -- Farm and Home, Judy Gaze
5. CDVA DIVISION VETERANS SERVICES -- Glen Halsey, Chief
6. SELECT COMMITTEE -- Veterans Services, Jerry Basconcillo
7. SELECT COMMITTEE -- Policy and Procedures, Leo Burke
8. CDVA CONTRACT MANAGEMENT – John Hanretty
9. SELECT COMMITTEE – Contracts, Jerry Basconcillo
10. CDVA LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS- Andy Kotch
11. SELECT COMMITTEE -- Legislation, Leo Burke & Larry Lattman
12. SELECT COMMITTEE -- Annual Report, Leo Burke & Jerry Basconcillo
13. SELECT COMMITTEE -- Recognition and Awards, George Sinopoli
14. SELECT COMMITTEE -- Appeals, George Sinopoli
  - Formal appeal request by C. Dillard, CAL Vet Loan application, UPDATE
  - Review of Records request Mr. Ronnie Nelson, Denial Farm and Home, Judy Gaze
  - Review of Record request by C. Nicholas, Ed Fee Waiver for past years, J. Basconcillo
  - NEW informal appeal by M. Escandon, denial of pre-qualification Cal Vet Loan
15. LEGAL DIVISION -- Joseph Maguire, Deputy Secretary / Chief Counsel
16. INSPECTOR GENERAL – Ms Julie Hom

OPEN FORUM / ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION– THREE MINUTE LIMIT

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Update CVB Policy Book Coordination / Review / Revision.
2. Update on appeals (M.Escandon, C. Dillard, R. Nelson, C. Nicholas)
3. Review of Annual Reports Required of the CDVA

4. Update on Veterans Home of Barstow -- SNF Closure & resident relocations

#### NEW BUSINESS / AGENDA ITEMS

1. Progress report on new California Veterans Homes.
2. Review of the California State Auditors Report
3. New Cal-Vet Loan Interest rates
4. Department changes to the California Codes and Regulations (CCR's)
5. Proposed program changes of CDVA
  - a. (MR-01; MR-02; MR-03; MR-04 & SFL2-HQs).
6. CDVA update on Budget
7. Select Committee, Assignments and Actions

#### FUTURE MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

All meetings take place on Friday, unless notified, 2003.

Aug 8	West Los Angeles Area
Sept 12	TO BE DETERMINED
	<u>All schedules are post on web site:</u>
	<u><a href="http://www.cdva.ca.gov/board">www.cdva.ca.gov/board</a>.</u>

#### CLOSED SESSION (if necessary or required)

The general reason or reasons for a closed session, and the specific statutory authority therefore, are (1) to consider the appointment or employment of a public employee under the authority of Section 11126(a) of the Government Code; and (2) to confer with or receive advice from the Board's legal counsel regarding pending litigation under the authority of Section 11126(E)(2)(A), (2)(B), and (3) of the Government Code.

CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD MEETINGS

Friday, Sept. 19, 2003, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
California Department of Veterans Affairs Headquarters, Sacramento  
1227 O St., Sacramento, Calif.  
George G. Sinopoli, Chairman  
Information 916.653.2041  
Web Site: [www.cdva.ca.gov/board](http://www.cdva.ca.gov/board)

AGENDA

- 9 a.m. Formal Hearing, Clarence Dillard
- 1 p.m. GENERAL SESSION- MEDAL OF HONOR HALL  
(The Board's Select Committee's will report during the General Session.)

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING / WELCOMING REMARKS

- Call to Order / Roll Call
- Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance
- Introductions
  - California Veterans Board (CVB)
  - California Department of Veterans Affairs Staff (CDVA)
  - Audience
  - Approve July 2003 Minutes. (DRAFT)

SECRETARY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS / REMARKS

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON ACTIVITIES - July/Sept, 2003

REPORTS (Status of CDVA Division / CVB Select Committees / Special)

1. CDVA DIVISION -- VETERANS HOMES CALIFORNIA:
  - a. Yountville Veterans Home –
  - b. Barstow Veterans Home –
  - c. Chula Vista Veterans Home
  - d. California Veterans Homes – Deborah Kania, Deputy Secretary
2. SELECT COMMITTEE -- Veterans Homes, Larry Lattman
3. CDVA DIVISION FARM AND HOME PURCHASES – Acting Chief
4. SELECT COMMITTEE -- Farm and Home, Judy Gaze
5. CDVA DIVISION VETERANS SERVICES -- Glen Halsey, Chief
6. SELECT COMMITTEE -- Veterans Services, Jerry Basconcillo
7. SELECT COMMITTEE -- Policy and Procedures, Leo Burke
8. CDVA CONTRACT MANAGEMENT – John Hanretty
9. SELECT COMMITTEE – Contracts, Jerry Basconcillo
10. CDVA LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS- Andy Kotch
11. SELECT COMMITTEE -- Legislation, Leo Burke & Larry Lattman
12. SELECT COMMITTEE -- Annual Report, Leo Burke & Jerry Basconcillo
13. SELECT COMMITTEE -- Recognition and Awards, George Sinopoli
14. SELECT COMMITTEE -- Appeals, George Sinopoli  
Formal appeal request by C. Dillard, CAL Vet Loan application, UPDATE
15. Review of Records request Mr. Ronnie Nelson, Denial Farm and Home, Judy Gaze  
Review of Record request by C. Nicholas, Ed Fee Waiver for past years, J. Basconcillo  
NEW informal appeal by M. Escandon, denial of pre-qualification Cal Vet Loan
16. LEGAL DIVISION -- Joseph Maguire, Deputy Secretary / Chief Counsel
17. 16. INSPECTOR GENERAL – Ms. Julie Hom

OPEN FORUM / ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION– THREE MINUTE LIMIT

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Update CVB Policy Book Coordination / Review / Revision.
2. Update on appeals (M.Escandon, C. Dillard, R. Nelson, C. Nicholas)
3. Review of Annual Reports Required of the CDVA
4. Update on Veterans Home of Barstow -- SNF Closure & resident relocations

## NEW BUSINESS / AGENDA ITEMS

1. Progress report on new California Veterans Homes.
2. Review of the California State Auditors Report
3. New Cal-Vet Loan Interest rates
4. Department changes to the California Codes and Regulations (CCR's)
5. Proposed program changes of CDVA
6. (MR-01; MR-02; MR-03; MR-04 & SFL2-HQs).
7. CDVA update on Budget
8. Select Committee, Assignments and Actions
9. Explanation of levels of care at new veterans homes (George Andries, CDVA)
10. Update on HIPAA (Ivan Greene, CDVA)

## FUTURE MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

All meetings take place on Friday, unless notified, 2003.

Aug. 8	West Los Angeles Area
Sept 12	TO BE DETERMINED
	<u>All schedules are post on web site:</u>
	<u><a href="http://www.cdva.ca.gov/board">www.cdva.ca.gov/board</a>.</u>

## CLOSED SESSION (if necessary or required)

The general reason or reasons for a closed session, and the specific statutory authority therefore, are (1) to consider the appointment or employment of a public employee under the authority of Section 11126(a) of the Government Code; and (2) to confer with or receive advice from the Board's legal counsel regarding pending litigation under the authority of Section 11126(E)(2)(A), (2)(B), and (3) of the Government Code.

CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD MEETING

Friday, October 17, 2003, 9:00 a.m.  
Veterans Home of California Chula Vista, F Building  
700 East Naples Court, Chula Vista, CA  
George G. Sinopoli, Chairman  
Information 916/653-2041  
Web Site: [www.cdva.ca.gov/board](http://www.cdva.ca.gov/board)

AGENDA

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Call to Order / Roll Call
- Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance
- Introductions
  - California Veterans Board
  - Department of Veterans Affairs Staff

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING / WELCOMING REMARKS

FORMAL HEARING Clarence Dillard, F Building, Veterans Home of Chula Vista.

- Introductions
  - Audience
  - Approve September 19, 2003 Minutes. (DRAFT)

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON ACTIVITIES FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

REPORTS (Status of Cal Dept Vet Affairs Div / CVB Select Committees / Special)

1. CDVA DIVISION VETERANS HOMES CALIFORNIA:
2. California Veterans Homes – Deborah Kania, Deputy Secretary
3. Capitol Development & Construction Division – George Andries, Director
4. Chula Vista Veterans Home – Daniel Murray, Administrator
5. SELECT COMMITTEE - Veterans Homes, Larry Lattman
6. SELECT COMMITTEE - Farm and Home, Judy Gaze
7. SELECT COMMITTEE – Veterans Services, Jerry Basconcillo
8. SELECT COMMITTEE – Policy and Procedures, Leo Burke
9. SELECT COMMITTEE – Contracts, Jerry Basconcillo
10. SELECT COMMITTEE - Legislation, Leo Burke
11. SELECT COMMITTEE - Annual Report, Leo Burke
12. SELECT COMMITTEE – Recognition and Awards, George Sinopoli
13. SELECT COMMITTEE - Appeals, George Sinopoli
14. LEGAL DIVISION, Joseph Maguire, Deputy Secretary / Chief Counsel
15. INSPECTOR GENERAL, Julie Hom, Deputy Inspector General

SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENT – THREE MINUTE LIMIT Board Policy Prohibits Response from Board Members

OLD BUSINESS

1. Review 2004 CVB Budget

NEW BUSINESS/AGENDA ITEMS

1. Review HIPAA requirements
2. Review Policy A-4 Appeals to the Board
  - a. Recommendations on December Board Meeting VH Yountville

FUTURE MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS:

All meetings take place on Friday unless notified.

November 7 No Meeting

December 5 VHC Yountville

For budget savings, no meetings scheduled in January and July.

Yearly schedule is posted on web site: [www.cdva.ca.gov/board](http://www.cdva.ca.gov/board)

CLOSED SESSION (if necessary or required)



The general reason or reasons for a closed session, and the specific statutory authority therefore, are (1) to consider the appointment or employment of a public employee under the authority of Section 11126(a) of the Government Code; and (2) to confer with or receive advice from the Board's legal counsel regarding pending litigation under the authority of Section 11126(E)(2)(A), (2)(B), and (3) of the Government Code.

CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD MEETING

Friday, December 5, 2003, 9:00 a.m.  
Veterans Home of California Yountville, Lee Lounge  
100 California Drive, Yountville, CA  
George G. Sinopoli, Chairman  
Information 916/653-2041  
Web Site: [www.cdva.ca.gov/board](http://www.cdva.ca.gov/board)

AGENDA

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Call to Order / Roll Call
- Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance
- Introductions
  - California Veterans Board
  - Department of Veterans Affairs Staff

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING / WELCOMING REMARKS

- Introductions
  - Audience
  - Approve October 17, 2003 Minutes. (DRAFT)

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON ACTIVITIES FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER  
REPORTS (Status of Cal Dept Vet Affairs Div / CVB Select Committees / Special)

1. CDVA DIVISION VETERANS HOMES CALIFORNIA:
2. California Veterans Homes – Tom Kraus, Undersecretary Secretary
3. Capitol Development & Construction Division – George Andries, Director
4. Yountville Veterans Home – Marcella McCormack, Administrator
5. SELECT COMMITTEE - Veterans Homes, Larry Lattman
6. SELECT COMMITTEE - Farm and Home, Judy Gaze
7. SELECT COMMITTEE – Veterans Services, Jerry Basconcillo
8. SELECT COMMITTEE – Policy and Procedures, Leo Burke
9. SELECT COMMITTEE – Contracts, Jerry Basconcillo
10. SELECT COMMITTEE - Legislation, Leo Burke
11. SELECT COMMITTEE - Annual Report, Leo Burke
12. SELECT COMMITTEE – Recognition and Awards, George Sinopoli
13. SELECT COMMITTEE - Appeals, George Sinopoli
14. LEGAL DIVISION, Joseph Maguire, Deputy Secretary / Chief Counsel
15. INSPECTOR GENERAL, Julie Hom, Deputy Inspector General

SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENT – THREE MINUTE LIMIT

Board Policy Prohibits Response from Board Members

OLD BUSINESS

1. None at this time

NEW BUSINESS/AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approve October 17, 2003 Minutes
2. Review Informal Hearing Request of Walter Unruh of Chula Vista
3. Review Informal Hearing Request of Robert Burrows Farm & Home

**FUTURE MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS:**

All meetings take place on Friday unless notified.

February 6, 2004 Sacramento

March 5, 2004 Southern California

April 9, 2004 Clovis

For budget savings, no meetings scheduled in January and July.

Yearly schedule is posted on web site: [www.cdva.ca.gov/board](http://www.cdva.ca.gov/board)

**CLOSED SESSION (if necessary or required)**

The general reason or reasons for a closed session, and the specific statutory authority therefore, are (1) to consider the appointment or employment of a public employee under the authority of Section 11126(a) of the Government Code; and (2) to confer with or receive advice from the Board's legal counsel regarding pending litigation under the authority of Section 11126(E)(2)(A), (2)(B), and (3) of the Government Code.

CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD MEETING

Friday, March 5, 2004, 9:00 a.m.  
Veterans Home of California Barstow  
100 E. Veterans Parkway, Barstow, CA  
George G. Sinopoli, Chairman  
Information 916/653-2041  
Web Site: [www.cdva.ca.gov/board](http://www.cdva.ca.gov/board)

AGENDA

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Call to Order / Roll Call
- Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance
- Introductions
  - California Veterans Board
  - Department of Veterans Affairs Staff

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING / WELCOMING REMARKS

- Introductions
  - Audience
  - Approve December 5, 2003 Minutes. (DRAFT)

SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

OLD BUSINESS

1. Status on Construction of New Veterans Homes
2. Report by CDVA
3. Statement by Terry Tracy, American Legion District Service Officer
4. Statement by Mr. Ralph Tillman, Director of Asset Management GLAVC, West LA VA
5. Statement from Fresno City Official, Bruce Barnes Project Manager
6. Status on Cemetery in Northern California
7. Status on Independent Counsel from CDVA
8. Status of Post Fund Audit Requirement (MWRF)
9. Status Report of Doctor Fox Article Napa News December 2, 2003
10. HIPAA requirements presented by Ivann Greene, Assistant Deputy Veterans Homes Division

NEW BUSINESS/AGENDA ITEMS

2. Informal Hearing Request of Walter Unruh of Chula Vista
3. Informal Hearing Request of Robert Burrows Farm & Home
4. Review appeal request of Richard Calton
5. Review appeal request of John Warren
6. Non vet spouse policy change of Yountville

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON ACTIVITIES FOR DECEMBER 2003/JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2004  
REPORTS (Status of Cal Dept Vet Affairs Div / CVB Select Committees / Special)

1. CDVA DIVISION VETERANS HOMES CALIFORNIA:
  - a. California Veterans Homes – Secretary Thomas Johnson
  - b. Capitol Development & Construction Division – George Andries, Director
  - c. Barstow Veterans Home – Louis Koff, Administrator
2. SELECT COMMITTEE - Veterans Homes, Larry Lattman
3. SELECT COMMITTEE - Farm and Home, Judy Gaze
4. SELECT COMMITTEE – Veterans Services, Jerry Basconcillo
5. SELECT COMMITTEE – Policy and Procedures, Leo Burke
6. SELECT COMMITTEE – Contracts, Jerry Basconcillo
7. SELECT COMMITTEE - Legislation, Leo Burke
8. SELECT COMMITTEE – Recognition and Awards, George Sinopoli
9. LEGAL DIVISION, Joseph Maguire, Deputy Secretary / Chief Counsel

PUBLIC COMMENT – THREE MINUTE LIMIT  
Board Policy Prohibits Response from Board Members

FUTURE MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS:

All meetings take place on Friday unless notified.

April 9, 2004 to be announced

For budget savings, change from two days to one day meetings. No meetings scheduled in January and July. Yearly schedule is posted on web site: [www.cdva.ca.gov/board](http://www.cdva.ca.gov/board)

CLOSED SESSION (if necessary or required)

The general reason or reasons for a closed session, and the specific statutory authority therefore, are (1) to consider the appointment or employment of a public employee under the authority of Section 11126(a) of the Government Code; and (2) to confer with or receive advice from the Board's legal counsel regarding pending litigation under the authority of Section 11126(E)(2)(A), (2)(B), and (3) of the Government Code.

CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD MEETING

Friday, April 23, 2004, 9:00 a.m.  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
1227 O Street, California 95814 Medal of Honor Hall  
George G. Sinopoli, Chairman  
Information 916/653-2041  
Web Site: [www.cdva.ca.gov/board](http://www.cdva.ca.gov/board)

AGENDA

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Call to Order / Roll Call
- Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance
- Introductions
  - California Veterans Board
  - Department of Veterans Affairs Staff

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING / WELCOMING REMARKS

- Introductions
- Audience
- Approve March 5, 2004 Minutes. (DRAFT)

SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

OLD BUSINESS

1. Status of HR 1742 and AB 1736
2. Status Steering Committee (45 day time line)
3. Status of Marketing Efforts (Farm & Home, Veterans Homes)
4. Independent Counsel
5. Confidentiality/Protected Health Information (PHI) Policy (HIPAA)
6. State Cemetery

NEW BUSINESS/AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approve March 5, 2004 Minutes
2. Morale Welfare and Recreation Fund Proposed Trailer Bill
3. Cost per Patient at Veterans Homes
4. Board Member Vacancies
5. Review Informal Hearing Request of Anthony Mosqueda, Farm & Home
6. Review Informal Hearing Request of John Warren, Farm & Home
7. Review Informal Hearing Request of Walter Unruh of Chula Vista
8. Review Policy Revision Priority for Single Rooms at Yountville

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON ACTIVITIES FOR MARCH 2004

REPORTS (Status of Cal Dept Vet Affairs Div / CVB Select Committees / Special)

1. CDVA DIVISION VETERANS HOMES CALIFORNIA:
  - a. California Veterans Homes – Secretary Thomas Johnson
  - b. Capitol Development & Construction Division – George Andries, Director
2. SELECT COMMITTEE - Veterans Homes, Dr. Edward Feldman
3. SELECT COMMITTEE - Farm and Home, Judy Gaze
4. SELECT COMMITTEE – Veterans Services, Judy Gaze
5. SELECT COMMITTEE – Policy and Procedures, Dr. Ed Feldman
6. SELECT COMMITTEE – Contracts, George Sinopoli
7. SELECT COMMITTEE - Legislation, Leo Burke
8. SELECT COMMITTEE – Recognition and Awards, George Sinopoli
9. LEGAL DIVISION, Joseph Maguire, Deputy Secretary / Chief Counsel

PUBLIC COMMENT – THREE MINUTE LIMIT

Board Policy Prohibits Response from Board Members

FUTURE MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS:

All meetings take place on Friday unless notified.

To be announced

For budget savings, change from two days to one day meetings. No meetings scheduled in January and July. Yearly schedule is posted on web site: [www.cdva.ca.gov/board](http://www.cdva.ca.gov/board)

CLOSED SESSION (if necessary or required)

The general reason or reasons for a closed session, and the specific statutory authority therefore, are (1) to consider the appointment or employment of a public employee under the authority of Section 11126(a) of the Government Code; and (2) to confer with or receive advice from the Board's legal counsel regarding pending litigation under the authority of Section 11126(E)(2)(A), (2)(B), and (3) of the Government Code.

CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD MEETING

Friday, May 14, 2004, 9:00 a.m.  
Clovis Memorial District  
453 Hughes Avenue, Room 1 Clovis, CA 93612  
George G. Sinopoli, Chairman  
Information 916/653-2041  
Web Site: [www.cdva.ca.gov/board](http://www.cdva.ca.gov/board)

AGENDA

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Call to Order / Roll Call
- Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance
- Introductions
  - California Veterans Board
  - Department of Veterans Affairs Staff

SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING / WELCOMING REMARKS

- Introductions
  - Audience
  - Approve April 23, 2004 Minutes. (DRAFT)

OLD BUSINESS

1. Presentation by Robert Johnson
  - a. GLAVC: Scope & Cost, Project Development Status
  - b. Fresno/Redding: Project Development Status
  - c. AB 1736
2. Marketing Efforts Update (Farm & Home, Veterans Homes)
3. MWRF Trailer Bill history
4. Policy Revision Priority for Single Rooms at Yountville
5. HR 1742 update
6. Status of AB 1919

NEW BUSINESS/AGENDA ITEMS

1. Cost of Care of Veteran's Homes
2. New Board Member Status
3. Review appeal of Lawrence Gorfine, Farm & Home

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON ACTIVITIES FOR APRIL 2004

REPORTS (Status of Cal Dept Vet Affairs Div / CVB Select Committees / Special)

1. CDVA DIVISION VETERANS HOMES CALIFORNIA:
  - a. California Veterans Homes – Secretary Thomas Johnson
2. SELECT COMMITTEE - Veterans Homes
3. SELECT COMMITTEE - Farm and Home, Judy Gaze
4. SELECT COMMITTEE – Veterans Services, Judy Gaze
5. SELECT COMMITTEE – Policy and Procedures
6. SELECT COMMITTEE – Contracts, George Sinopoli
7. SELECT COMMITTEE - Legislation, Leo Burke
8. SELECT COMMITTEE – Recognition and Awards, George Sinopoli
9. LEGAL DIVISION, Joseph Maguire, Deputy Secretary / Chief Counsel

PUBLIC COMMENT – THREE MINUTE LIMIT

Board Policy Prohibits Response from Board Members

FUTURE MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS:

All meetings take place on Friday unless notified.

To be announced

For budget savings, change from two days to one day meetings. No meetings scheduled in January and July. Yearly schedule is posted on web site: [www.cdva.ca.gov/board](http://www.cdva.ca.gov/board)



CLOSED SESSION (if necessary or required)

The general reason or reasons for a closed session, and the specific statutory authority therefore, are (1) to consider the appointment or employment of a public employee under the authority of Section 11126(a) of the Government Code; and (2) to confer with or receive advice from the Board's legal counsel regarding pending litigation under the authority of Section 11126(E)(2)(A), (2)(B), and (3) of the Government Code.

CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD MEETING

Friday, July 16, 2004, 9:00 a.m.  
Tulare, CA 93274  
125 South M Street Civic Affairs Building  
George G. Sinopoli, Chairman  
Information 916/653-2041  
Web Site: [www.cdva.ca.gov/board](http://www.cdva.ca.gov/board)

AGENDA

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Call to Order / Roll Call
- Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance
- Introductions
  - California Veterans Board
  - Department of Veterans Affairs Staff

SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING / WELCOMING REMARKS

- Introductions
  - Audience
  - Approve April 23, 2004 & May 14, 2004 Minutes. (DRAFT)

OLD BUSINESS

1. Update Greater Los Angeles Ventura Counties status
2. Update Memorandum of Understanding status
3. Update H.R. 1742

NEW BUSINESS/AGENDA ITEMS

1. Status on Veterans Legislation & Public Affairs
2. Status on Cal Vet Home Loan Program
3. Update Disabled Veterans Business Enterprises program
4. Update Veterans Dependents Educational Assistance program
5. Status Board Members
6. Review appeal of Lawrence Gorfine, Farm & Home Loan
7. Review the CDVA projected budget for current Fiscal Year
8. Mission, Vision and Values Statement

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON ACTIVITIES FOR MAY/JUNE 2004

REPORTS (Status of Cal Dept Vet Affairs Div / CVB Select Committees)

1. CDVA DIVISION VETERANS HOMES CALIFORNIA:
  - a. California Veterans Homes – Deputy Secretary Bill Parente
2. SELECT COMMITTEE-Veterans Homes, Dr. Vernon Chong
3. SELECT COMMITTEE-Farm and Home, Judy Gaze
4. SELECT COMMITTEE-Veterans Services, Judy Gaze
5. SELECT COMMITTEE-Policy and Procedures, Leo Burke & Dr. Vernon Chong
6. SELECT COMMITTEE-Contracts, George Sinopoli
7. SELECT COMMITTEE-Legislation, Leo Burke
8. SELECT COMMITTEE-Recognition and Awards, George Sinopoli
9. LEGAL DIVISION-Joseph Maguire, Deputy Secretary / Chief Counsel

PUBLIC COMMENT – THREE MINUTE LIMIT

Board Policy Prohibits Response from Board Members

FUTURE MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS:

All meetings take place on Friday unless notified.

August 20, 2004 Yuba/Marysville

For budget savings, change from two days to one day meetings. No meetings scheduled in January and July. Yearly schedule is posted on web site: [www.cdva.ca.gov/board](http://www.cdva.ca.gov/board)

CLOSED SESSION (if necessary or required)

The general reason or reasons for a closed session, and the specific statutory authority therefore, are (1) to consider the appointment or employment of a public employee under the authority of Section 11126(a) of the Government Code; and (2) to confer with or receive advice from the Board's legal counsel regarding pending litigation under the authority of Section 11126(E)(2)(A), (2)(B), and (3) of the Government Code.

## Map of Meeting Locations



## **Summary of Key Activities**

### **July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004**

As indicated in the month-to-month overview of the boards' agenda the California Veterans Board makes every attempt to meet in various parts of the state. Meetings took place as far north as Sacramento and as far south as San Diego. It is apparent due to budget constraints eight meetings were held through out the State primarily in Sacramento. It is the desire of the Board to go where the veterans are in order to give them a chance to appear before the Board when fiscally possible. To expand the opportunities for veterans to provide input to the Board an online web page was provided and over 250 responses have been processed to that new questionnaire.

In April 2004, Dr. Edward Feldman (West Lake Village) resigned due to wellbeing issues. His position is filled by Dr. Vernon Chong (Lincoln) a retired Major General and a former VISN director in Texas for five years and appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger June 2004 term expires January 2005. Jerry Basconcillo term expired January 15, 2004 and Larry Lattman term expired January 2004. Leo Burke was then reappointed to the Board on July 20, 2003. Other members of the California Veterans Board consisted of Chairman George Sinopoli (Fresno), Judy Gaze (San Diego) a housing and real estate expert

On February 12, 2004 Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Thomas Johnson, a Vietnam Era Veteran, as Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs. As Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Johnson oversees the state department that administers the benefits provided by a grateful State of California to its deserving veterans and their dependents and survivors.

The Board attempts to accommodate veterans who file appeals. These appeals have been heard monthly in locations throughout the state The Board processed 11 appeals and approved two. (See map of meeting locations & appeal chart for details.) During the last three fiscals years the number of veterans filing appeals to the Board has decreased. This is contributed to the fact that the policy set by the board and the collaborating effort with the department and members of the Board communicating with California's veterans. If a complaint is brought to the Boards attention calls or letters are sent to the veteran until all of the matters are resolved and or understood.

The California State Auditor Report 2002-120 of June 26, 2003 revealed that the board has not established itself as an effective policy-maker for the Department of Veterans Affairs. The board lacks independent counsel to minimize the legal risks of its policy-making and appeals actions. The board's appeal process needs improvement to ensure that veterans' appeals are handled consistently and appropriately. The board's effectiveness is hindered by its reduced membership and lack of training on its responsibilities. Although the department has implemented eight of the 14 recommendations that were reviewed from our previous audits, it has not given sufficient attention to a key recommendation regarding the long-term viability of the Cal-Vet program.

The current Board has taken a very firm stand and is deeply concerned about the following issues: homeless veterans, Alzheimer/dementia treatment facilities within our veterans homes, the Life and Disability Insurance program in the Cal Vet Home Loan program. Additional attention is given to veteran's rights in the College Fee Waiver program for their children, lower interest rates for Home Loans and the planning for future Veterans Homes in California.

## **Summary of Key Activities**

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The Board is very pleased with the legislative bills, which have been voted for in the past year. The Board has voted and gone on record to support 29 legislative bills that benefit our veterans. (See chart on Legislative actions). The Board opposed three legislative bills. During this report period each Board Member has made many efforts to visit each of the California Veterans Homes, additionally, the Board holds meeting at each of the Homes. During each of their visits the Board Members dined and informally visited with the veteran residents listening to the concerns of each.

## **Budget Expenditure Report**

### **July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Personal Services (F&H)	67,000	68,825.07	-1,825.07
General Expense (GF)	91,000	2,133.55	70,498.27
Printing		66.00	70,432.27
Communications		1,390.24	69,042.03
Postage		4,862.87	64,179.16
Travel		17,873.87	46,305.29
Totals	\$158,000	\$95,151.60	\$46,305.29

#### **NOTES:**

1. Expenditures are rounded to the nearest dollar.
2. This report summarizes the budget allocation and expenditure for both funding sources (General Fund and the Farm & Home Building Fund). It does reflect the savings or deficit for each fund.

## **Recognition Plaques And Certificates**

### **Presented July 2003 – June 2004**

<b>PRESENTED TO</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>PRESENTED BY</b>
John Brienden III	American Legion National Commander	December 13, 2003	George Sinopoli
Jerry Basconcillo	Cal Vet Board Member 2000/2004	July 18, 2004	George Sinopoli

## **Goals and Objectives For FY 2004**

- The California Veterans Board will set policy for the California Department of Veterans Affairs that will be both cost effective and valuable to the state's approximate 2.6 million veterans. While doing this task, the Board will ensure that the Department's expenditures are cost-effective by continuing to evaluate, approve major expenditures and improve operational procedures.
- The Board will seek more functional methods to adjudicate veteran's appeals against the state by better utilizing the Board's independent legal counsel and staff during research.
- The Board will work toward a fiscal climate for the Department that will permit the continuation of lowering Cal Vet loan interest rates, improved management of billing cycles and reimbursements of charges at the California Veterans Homes.
- The Board will continue to work with the Department as partners toward the simplification and streamlining of procedures and programs. This especially applies to the Farm and Home programs with their related insurance plans, and the fiscal management of the California Veterans Homes.
- The Board will work in partnership with the Department to evaluate the Alzheimer and Dementia study, toward the implementation of more beneficial veterans home programs with cost-effective funding.
- The Board will continue to support the state's many veterans services programs while working to provide the California County Veterans Services Officers with proper tools and funding to carry their assigned missions.
- The Board will work toward enhancing their relationship with the state's veteran population and continue to interface with the state's many veterans' organizations.
- The Board will continue to provide board oversight on new veterans home projects.
- The Board will continue an awards program by recognizing those veterans and organizations deserving such recognition.
- The Board will respond to the principals of governance by involvement in the Department's policy matters rather than the Department's operations.
- The Board will continue to develop open communication with the Department of Veterans Affairs, The Governors Office, the Veterans Committees in the Senate and Assembly and the veterans of California.





## CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD (CVB) QUESTIONNAIRE

1227 O Street, Suite 103  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Information (916) 653-2041  
FAX (916) 653-1400  
Website [www.cdva.ca.gov/board](http://www.cdva.ca.gov/board)

The CVB is very interested in reaching as many veterans as possible and addressing their concerns. The purpose of this questionnaire is to provide veterans/constituents with another process for communication with Board members. A questionnaire [www.cdva.ca.gov/board](http://www.cdva.ca.gov/board) is now available or by calling (916) 653-2041. Every California veteran input is valued and appreciated.

### 1. Would you like to be added to the Board's mailing list?

☐ I want to be on your mailing list!

If your answer is Yes, please indicate which method of contact you prefer.

☒ Please contact me via electronic mail (e-mail).

Here is my e-mail address:

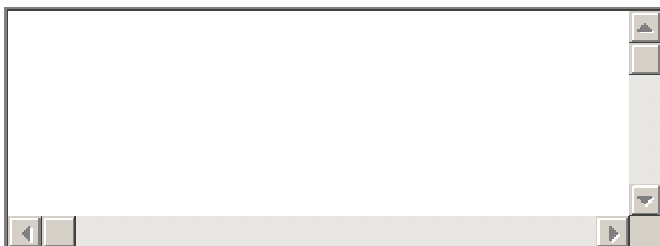
☐ Please contact me via the U.S. Postal Service.

### 2. Please consider this subject...

If you have a specific subject you would like the Board to consider or be made aware of, please provide a clear statement with as much detail as possible and forward it to the Board's office and include your complete return address for a response

### 3. Hold a Board meeting here!

Due to budget and time restraints the Board is prevented from meeting in all areas across California. However, please contact our office if your organization would like to be considered for hosting a future Board meeting. Priority is given to opportunities where the largest number of veterans can be heard.



Please complete the following information in order for us to verify your questionnaire responses if necessary, or send mailings from the California Veterans Board, if you have chosen to be added to the mailing list via regular mail. **The following information will not be used for any purpose other than contacting you for official CVB business.**

First Name/Middle Initial:

Last Name:

Street Address:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

Telephone Number:

If you have any additional questions or comments please fill free to submit them to the CVB office.

**Mailing Address:**

P.O. Box 942895  
Sacramento, CA 94295-0001

**Executive Officer**

Sandra Munoz  
(916) 653-2041  
FAX (916) 653-1400  
[CalVetBoard@cdva.ca.gov](mailto:CalVetBoard@cdva.ca.gov)

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2	Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO)
2	Joint Legislative Budget Committee
60	Commanders & Presidents of California Veterans Organization
2	President of County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO)
3	Presidents of California Veterans Homes Allied Councils
15	California Department of Veterans Affairs
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